

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
May 4, 2020**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Good News Report
4. Former Students in the Military
5. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
6. Resolution of Appreciation to All Staff
7. Policy: Spring 2020 Covid-19 Updates
8. Federal Programs: Notice of Intent to Apply
9. FY20 Budget Amendment
10. Bond Update
11. Capital Projects Status Report
12. FY21 Budget
13. Superintendent's Update
14. Important Dates
15. Timeline for Superintendent's Annual Evaluation
16. Public Comment
17. Other Items
18. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on May 4, 2020 at the Morris Education Center. In accordance with Governor Cooper's *Stay at Home* Executive Order, the meeting was held electronically to protect the health and safety of board members, staff and the public. The public was invited to view the meeting remotely at <https://www.facebook.com/transylvania.schools/live>. Persons wishing to address the board during Public Comment were invited to email their comment(s) by 1pm on May 4 to have their items read aloud as appropriate within board guidelines. Marty Griffin led in a moment of silence. Chairman McCoy led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone. She called the meeting to order and confirmed that the livestream was working properly. The following individuals were in attendance (* indicates remote attendance).

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair*
Courtney Domokur*
Marty Griffin*
Alice Wellborn*

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Dean Shatley*

MEDIA:

John Lanier, Transylvania Times*

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent*
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services*
Missy Ellenberger, Director, Curriculum & Instruction*
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator*
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services*
Greg Stroup, School Resource Officer
Tyler Snipes, School Resource Officer

1. **Approval of Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the meeting agenda for May 4, 2020 was approved as presented.

2. **Public Comment**

Chairman McCoy reported that a number of people had sent in emails with comments and concerns about the 2020 graduation, and five individuals had come to speak in person. She explained that the speakers would be allowed into the room one at a time, and any speaker who had also submitted an email would not have their email read aloud. Dr. McDaris gave a brief update from his discussion with Director Elaine Russell of the Transylvania County Health Department. He reported that there can be no mass gatherings, parades, or use of the stadiums. He has confirmed with Ms. Russell the graduation options that are being considered and that will be shared with students tomorrow.

Speakers:

Desiree Abram (RHS parent) - My son is a senior at RHS. We have been looking forward to major milestones since the day he was born. From the beginning he has been told that he was doomed for failure if he did not graduate. We can't tell our kids this and then deny them the opportunity to achieve this goal. We as a community have done well taking care of our own and our small businesses. While the government and the hospitals try to capitalize on this pandemic, we want to have a small town graduation. This is the entry path to the next chapter in life. Every student will take a different path. As a whole, I hope you as a school system can find a way to make this last memory the best memory it can possibly be. Please keep in mind this is the last time our kids will be together, and we want it to be the very best possible.

Melissa Henson (RHS parent) - "My name is Melissa Henson and I am the mother of Rosman High School Senior, Madison Henson. On Friday evening we, like every other parent within the Transylvania County School System, received an email and recorded message about our graduations being moved to a 'drive-in movie' like production. My daughter was upset and I honestly was in shock that this became the viable option given to students who have tirelessly worked for 13 years for the grand moment of walking across the stage to receive their high school diploma. I have heard some people say that this moment really is not a big deal because these students were meant for bigger things in life. I agree that they have a lifetime of events that may be more important to them but at this moment in time THIS is important to them. Don't make this a production like a drive-in movie! This is supposed to be a monumental event in the life of a student and should be kept sacred! Everyone should hold this moment in their lives close to their hearts and be able to look back and remember the great day with family and friends! Previous emails had led us to believe that parental and student input would be part of this process. Madison is extremely active at Rosman High School and in fact was at the school on Thursday working on yearbook distribution. No mention of the drive-in graduation was given. I haven't received any emails or phone calls asking for my input as a parent. Madison is also part of student council and found out Friday that Brevard's student council was part of this decision making process but the students at Rosman were not. This kind of divide should not be happening! We are one school system with several schools. Don't leave one group out! My personal idea for graduation is to have each school graduate at their football stadiums. Graduation could even be held later in June or July to give our state the time needed to get through the various phases of reopening. Graduation can be held outdoors and both high school stadiums give room for social distancing. There could be limits to the number of family members allowed to be at the graduation and there could also be online viewing options for those unable to attend in person. For Rosman High School, my idea is to place the graduates in one end zone, spaced appropriately apart. Families will then be able to use both home and visitor stands for viewing. I also know that the school system is afraid of the liability that comes with having a gathering during this time. Have everyone that enters the stadium sign a release and also

have 'enter at your own risk' signage. This would hold harmless the schools. Have a stage and a great sound system available and have a normal graduation that these students and their families can enjoy! I am sure that Brevard High School Football Stadium can hold all of those that attend that graduation also! We, as parents, are just asking for this School Board to give this some time. Don't make haste decisions. Wait and see what Governor Cooper says this week about beginning the reopening phases for our state. At that time the process can earnestly begin about what to do for graduation ceremonies. Our neighbors to the south are using their football stadiums for much larger class graduations and surely as small 1A and 2A schools, so should we. I appreciate you reading my opinion and hope that it will give some insight as to what several other parents believe would be best for our students!"

Madison Henson (RHS senior) - Graduation is a time we get to come together and celebrate achievements we have made for the last 12 years. The senior class has lost so much. This has been one of the hardest things I've had to endure as a senior. Having the ceremony is the last time we can get together and have memories. Give us a regular ceremony. Use one of the stadiums. South Carolina schools have moved their ceremonies to their football fields. We ask that you consider what other schools are doing and give us the graduation we have always dreamed of.

Gabby DiLemme (BHS senior) - "Graduation is something that students look forward to for years. It is a right of passage, a celebration of hard work, and a time to reflect on the 13 years of memories. To make a virtual graduation and not consider many ideas that have been discussed, is simply not fair. The class of 2020 wants more time. The class of 2020 deserves more time. We need to wait until late summer when the Governor's plan allows for more options. However, if a traditional graduation just cannot happen, there are ideas to celebrate us. One idea is a parade. The city of Brevard has many events that close down the roads for hours. Seniors can start at the high school, and walk 6 feet apart with their families in their cap and gowns. People can stand in their yards and cheer us on; like we deserve. The route can go uptown. Another idea is having graduation at the football field. There is more than enough room to be appropriately spaced. These are options that must be discussed; instead of throwing the seniors hard work out of a window and not celebrating us the way we deserve. I hope that there will be a change."

Skylar Harrison (RHS student) - I come as a leader to speak about graduation. When the plans came out, everyone was devastated. I believe there are better ways than a drive-through movie. We may get ideas from other schools such as parades, etc. Have respect for the seniors who have worked very hard these 13 years. Please respect our opinions and give the seniors of 2020 what they deserve.

Emails (read by Dr. McDaris):

Alicia Swicegood - "This honestly is a very big disappointment, our seniors deserve much better. I'm very disappointed with the plans Transylvania county has made for our seniors. If you can't do original date then postpone till the end of June, July, or August before kids leave for college, what's the rush? Give them a graduation they deserve with all their classmates, friends, & family together. They've lost so much of their senior year, to end with a drive-in movie style graduation, as if that sounds appealing. I'm not one to vocalize my concerns but do better. They've lost too much this year to end this way. Big disappointment in our leadership for not making better plans, thinking this would satisfy & not standing up for the 2020 class & their contribution to our community."

Leslie Ruff - "I as a parent of a RHS 2020 Senior am very hurt and sickened by the decision for a "drive-in graduation". Hurt because you are Proud of this decision. That makes me sick to my stomach. Our kids deserve better! I know I'm not the only one who feels this way. Why weren't the students and their parents asked about how graduation would happen? Shouldn't we have a say in the decision? Please reconsider this decision and wait until July or August and have a traditional graduation. There are other schools doing the same. Let our kids have a normal graduation. They've already lost so much of their Senior year."

Sonya Mckelvey - "My daughter Maddy is a 2020 Senior at BHS. I was very disappointed to hear that we are having a 2 day, drive in Graduation. These kids have had so many things taken away this year as a result of COVID-19. I think we can do better. Graduation is the last time that the Seniors are together as a class. They have spent the last 13 years as a group. To ask them to graduate on 2 different nights is sad for them. There are other options. We have plenty of room at the BHS football stadium. It could be marked off for social distancing requirements. It would take work but parents would be glad to help so that kids could have a proper graduation. You could even wait until the end of the summer, right before kids leave for College. To be honest I am a little confused. One week we were told in a phone call that parents and students would have a voice to help find a solution to graduation this year and the next week this virtual graduation had been decided for them. PLEASE reconsider and give us a chance to come up with something better to honor our kids who have already lost so much!"

Shade Wilbanks - "I am a senior at Brevard High School, and I am writing on behalf of the 2020 Senior Classes of all three schools, Parents, and the Transylvania County Community as a whole. Over the last few days people's feelings have been hurt from others simply stating their opinions. Once again I shall state mine, and hope you will take into consideration what I say. While I understand the Brevard Student Council has worked alongside Admin and the Board, you are out of place when you say that this does not involve you if you are not a senior. It does. Our parents, former teachers, supporters... they are all a part of our small community and have been rooting for us for 13 years. As a small community, we long to see each other succeed. This isn't a football game seeing which school will come out triumphant, this is a tradition that has a place in everybody's heart, whether you bleed blue and white or orange and black. I can only speak for Brevard from this point on, but I know our class was not involved in the decision made and only asked their opinions through a social media post. We have been told 'you were not there for the long hours meeting with Admin. You do not know the choices and options available.' You've stated the most obvious and hurtful part of this all... we were not there, we never had an invite or input. When I criticize Admin and the Board, it is not because they did not work hard, it because of the route they took. They did not look to the class of 2020 and ask them directly what they thought. There were no forms sent out by email, there were no updates, there was simply a decision. Many others, including myself are still in the dark of what the options were. Here are some I was hoping for you to consider: A parade. Make it fun. The community has shown that they would not care if our streets were shut down for two hours. They want this as much as we do. At the top of Courthouse Hill, make light of the situation we are in. Have our diplomas tossed to us or handed by the end of one of the Dinosaur Grabbers. Make a scene funny and light hearted in this time of chaos. Better yet, something where we don't have to shut down our streets. Our class is small, 170 students. Any one that can do simple math can look at our Football field and figure out... 16 seats wide and 10 rows back. Space the rows every two yards. Open both sides of our stadium and have families sit in groups 6 feet apart. There is room. Our county has had 8 cases of Covid-19 in 2 months. We can continue to practice social distancing with these options. Lastly, a traditional graduation. If we were to push this back to the first week of August, we can be successful. Stay at home orders are likely to be lifted and students are still home before heading to college. I know this is lengthy but it is heartfelt. I will not apologize for my stance and my feelings. If the Student Council, Administration, and Board did not want the criticism they received, they should have been transparent with their choices every step of the way. Updates after every meeting. Letting us know the options at hand instead of being rude towards our concerns when we were left in the dark. I would hope a group of people could be open and honest with their community, and realize we simply want our voices heard and not shamed for our wants and desires. I thank you for taking your time of reading this and meeting tonight. I hope my words have accurately expressed the views of others in our community and you will take these things into consideration when moving forward. If the masses are silenced or treated as if their opinions do not matter, it will only stoke the fire beneath them. It is obvious the people of Transylvania County will not settle for the choice at hand, so once again we ask for you to reconsider and help us achieve our dreams."

Stephanie Holland - "I wanted to let the School Board know that I and other parents do support the creative drive in movie style graduation. Some students do not want to wait until July to

get their diploma. Some students may not be here in July. There is no guarantee that NC will allow a gathering of that size by July or even August. I understand that the alternative graduation plan comes with a certain level of disappointment and I feel for those that are hurting so deeply over this issue. However, I feel that we should carry on and make the best of it. My senior is planning to wear her cap and gown and decorate the car. What a unique memory we are creating and that's what it's all about really. Not the specific act of walking the BMC stage."

Alessandra LaRose - "I am the Student Body President of Brevard High School. I know the board will be overrun with emails of distaste and harsh words but I want to extend my support for the decision on graduation. As someone who has been in 1-2 meetings a week with Dr. Abernathy pretty much since school has been released, I had the opportunity to hear things that the average student did not. I heard about the things being discussed and I was lucky enough to voice my opinion. One of the advantages to this was hearing the direct thought process on administration's side and I had a certain degree of understanding on why things happened the way they did. With knowing this, student council was quick to speak up for our administration which have been faced with various messages bashing them entirely, which I find completely inappropriate. The outrage of the decision has not only caused hate to the administration but even hate towards the BHS student council for sticking up for administration and defending it from our understanding of the situation. With all of this I ask you to keep in mind that I believe that whoever made this call made the right decision. These are unprecedented times and the response of the school system is more than satisfactory. I really appreciate the time and money allotted for the opportunity to recognize this years senior class. Postponing graduation until the summer is not a smart decision in my opinion. The threat of the coronavirus is still not 100% away and if we wait there may be a chance we have no graduation at all. The decision for our current graduation plan allows the graduation to stay on schedule and will create a peaceful end instead of prolonging the 'end' of the school year until July or August when people would be preparing to leave for college and not worry about high school any longer. I hope this email shows you that though we may be in the minority, there are people who support this decision and I believe it is the correct choice. I appreciate your time and attention and wish you all health and safety."

Darla Owen - "Our grandson is a Brevard High School senior. Our family would like to express how disappointed we are on the decisions made for graduation. The class of 2020 have already had to miss out on so much of their senior year and the memories that go along with it. They missed their senior prom, senior trips, they haven't had the last months of their senior year to enjoy all the special things that come with their upcoming graduation. They missed out on all the spring sports they were so looking forward to, as we all know, your senior year is always something special when it comes to sports. When they get their yearbooks, they will be empty of well wishes and signatures from their classmates. And now they may have to have a 'drive-in movie' graduation where they are asked to choose only a few family members that will be allowed to view their picture on a screen with no celebration allowed between family or classmates. It seems to us that the better option for all graduates would be to hold the graduation outside on the football field with the graduates on the field spaced apart and the families sitting in the stands with spacing between them. The date of the graduation could be moved to somewhat later. It should be up to the graduates on what kind of graduation they want. It is easy for adults to decide the matter as long as it isn't involving them. What if it were your senior? They deserve the same graduation as all of the previous classes received. There are only a few special memories in ones life and graduation is one of them. Don't deny them the special honor they have earned."

Zoe Mihalas - "I am a senior at BHS, wishing to address the Transylvania County Board of Education during the public comment period. Desiring a traditional graduation, in this current climate, is selfish and irresponsible. Immanuel Kant's first categorical imperative is the universalizability principle: a form of a moral test that invites one to imagine a world in which a proposed action is adopted by everyone else. A true litmus test to determine the morality of a proposed action. For example, if you steal, you are approving of everyone stealing. The very practice of property rights would break down. If you lie, you are approving of everyone lying. The concept of truth ceases to exist. What Kant's really saying, is that it's not fair to make

exceptions for yourself. Now, let's bring into question the universal morality of having a traditional graduation during the times of Covid-19. If we were to have a traditional graduation ceremony, we are approving all school districts to have traditional graduation ceremonies. Not only putting our family members, graduates, and communities at risk of exposure to a disease that has killed 68,276 people in the United States and infected 3.15 million people globally. We are not being proper global citizens, during a time where it is utmost essential for modern-day humanity's survival, to be so. With that, I still believe we are special. We are special because we learned this within the walls of Brevard High School. We all somehow learned that it's not fair to make exceptions for ourselves. Maybe not with an entire philosophy lesson behind it, but, Class of 2020, you learned it. For some of us, it was on the field with our teammates, for others it was in a club with our friends, for me it was in Mr. Tinsley's Junior English class. We are a community that truly values its people. In times like these, there is no perfect answer, but we must look beyond ourselves."

Carla Whitmire - "I want to address Dr. McDaris and the members of the Transylvania County School Board. First of all, Graduation is THE MOST important event in a child's school history. This is the day and the time in their lives that they have looked forward to since basically kindergarten. Some of the seniors that are graduating, from both of our county schools, will NEVER have another opportunity to walk across a stage and receive their diploma while their families, friends, classmates and teachers are watching. High School Graduation is a 'Once in a Lifetime' event and I am begging you as a parent, please Do Not Take the traditional graduation away and turn this special day into a 'Drive in movie'. I know that I am willing and I know I speak for all the parents at Rosman High School, please re-think this ceremony. There are many other options, that can happen, if the ceremony is carefully orchestrated. I have All the Faith in the 'wonderful Team' at Rosman High School, Please, lets give our kids the graduation they deserve, they have been robbed of so much that they will never get to experience, please don't let Graduation be added to this list."

Michelle Owen - "First I would like to say thank you to all the great 'Educator's'. This includes teachers, parents, grandparents, siblings, and communities. For thirteen years my child has attended Transylvania County schools and all the people who have helped her to learn and achieve her goals have truly been amazing. Not only has she been taught the three 'R's' she has also learned History, DARE, Chemistry, Spanish, Foods, Business, and many other important intellectual aspects that will help her throughout life. But one of the most important things she has learned is that being an American citizen is a privilege. A Democracy is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. It is not a government of dictation or one of communism where the people have no say or no rights to freedoms of speech. She has been told, and especially as a woman, that she has to stand up for what she believes and for her rights or else that will be taken away. She has learned about the Women's right's movements and about Emancipation Proclamation, the Prohibition and many more history making movements by the American people and I believe this is why she encouraged myself, as well as others, to voice their opinions about the call we received on the afternoon of Friday May 1, 2020 about Graduation plans. My Daughter, as every Mother believes, is an exceptional, intellectual person. She believes through hard work and perseverance goals can be met and even exceeded. She has worked hard while in the Transylvania County schools and has a long record of awards, honors, leadership roles, and achievements. This year has been very complicated but she has continued to work hard even though she could have simply taken her grades and quit. She has met with teachers online and discussed with them and other classmates possible alternatives to optional graduation plans. So when the call came through on Friday she was very discouraged to know that she had no voice in the decision that was being passed down. As current Student Body Vice President she has pushed to help RHS to be their best and let their voices be heard. In times like these communication is key. I personally feel that the decision made about Graduation was not communicated to our students, parents, and communities. There were no surveys sent out or community Zoom meetings on the topic. I understand that these are difficult times and we must take a lot of precautions but let's not forget that we have many 'Educator's' who have brilliant minds and would like to have an input on the Graduation ceremony. Students and parents all have opinions and I feel these opinions need to be heard. As a parent we try to focus on the positive but for one minute let's talk about all that my High School Senior has

missed out on. FBLA competition (last year she placed 2nd in regionals), Envirothon competition (last year her team was 3rd), face to face scholarship interviews, Senior trip, Senior Prom, college visitation days, college acceptance days, Senior awards day, TC Scholars banquet, personally recognizing her most memorable teacher face to face, receiving her cords for being a scholar and a National Technical Honor Society Graduate, Senior day walking through the Elementary schools, yearbook delivery and signing day, recognizing peers who sign to play college ball, field day, and now Graduation. I know you are well aware of all the missed opportunities and that is why I felt positive you would be more sensitive to letting students and parents have some say in Graduation plans. I am aware that many precautions must be taken during this time but I do believe that if given the choice many, if not most of the students, would like to have a traditional type of Graduation even if it has to be at a much later date. I cannot speak for everyone on this topic but neither should the few people who made this decision that was announced on Friday afternoon. All I am asking is that you talk with the student bodies of all schools and their parents to see what each individual school would like to do. Please give our Graduate's one last hope of ending the school year in a positive note. Please reconsider the decision that has been made until you talk with all students and parents who would like to have their voices heard. And don't forget it is you, the Transylvania County Schools who have told parents and students that 'it takes a village'. 'Teaching Everyone Takes Everyone!'"

Callie Owen - "I am a Senior at Rosman High School. Friday, May 1, the county announced graduation plans which were a shock to many including myself. I now know that this message was sent out by error, however, it does not change the fact that the Graduation Ceremony this year will be different from any other past ceremony. I would like to offer my input on the 2020 Graduation ceremony at this time. While the decision will be made this week about Graduation, I would like to urge you to wait two more weeks to make a decision. I am suggesting this because the situation with COVID-19 is constantly changing. I would also like to urge you to consider pushing graduation to a further date. Many people will have jobs but if they know in advance then they can ask off. Those who will be joining the Services and may be out of the county we can video them for the ceremony. I know it will not be the same but it is better than nothing. Do you remember graduating from High School? All of the fun memories you may have had your last year. Your senior prom, your senior trip, getting to walk across the stage with your friends and see your family in the crowd. That is all I want. Unfortunately so much has been taken away from me and many others because of this disease. My last Envirothon competition, Future Business Leaders of America Competition, Senior trip, Prom, TC Scholars Banquet, Senior day, and Senior Awards Night have all been taken away from me. I won't be able to receive my yearbook and get all of my friends to sign it in the hallway. I won't get to have a proper goodbye to the school that I respect so much, all because of a very serious disease. So much of these circumstances are out of anyone's control. The graduation ceremony is not. This ceremony that means so much to everyone is in your control. It is in the control of the Board Members, the Health Officials, and law enforcement. All I am asking is for the Graduation Ceremony to be pushed out. We do not know if this will all be over by July but if it is we could have a proper graduation ceremony. If it isn't there are many great ideas to be had from all over the community in place of a traditional ceremony. My class has lost so much but we have been accepting and willing to adapt. I believe that we deserve as much of a traditional graduation as we can. Since the Rosman class of 2020 has entered middle school, a little over half of the students have either passed away, dropped out of school, or transferred schools. My class has already had to grieve losses that are unexplainable, but we did it together. The 62 of us that are remaining have accepted everyone that has come into the school with all of our heart. We are a class of giving and acceptance but we cannot accept not having a Graduation ceremony. I speak for myself but also many others that I have spoken with over the past few days. They have asked to remain nameless but their opinions speak for themselves. They believe a drive through graduation does not do our accomplishments justice. They believe that we have had so much take from us we deserve a proper graduation as best we can. Circumstances are different and difficult but I would like to urge you to push the decision about graduation forward for two weeks just to see how the state progresses. I also would like to urge you to consider pushing the graduation ceremony to later in the summer. All I want is a fighting chance to have one last great memory of high school. All I want is a chance to walk across the stage in front of

friends and family to receive my diploma. All I want is a chance to be recognized for completing high school."

Jennifer DiLemme - "A petition organized by Jordan Wells, a senior at Brevard High school, was posted on Change.org on May 2, 2020. (<http://chnng.it/pmbgV7gRrD>). This is what the petition states: Graduation is the one ceremony that everyone looks forward to since kindergarten. Especially after spending four years in high school, watching the classes before them walk the stage and be celebrated. During those same four years, most students develop relationships with fellow classmates, and memories that will last a lifetime. With seniors expecting the last semester of high school being spent with these friends, before going off on separate pathways. With the recent wide-spread COVID-19 pandemic, causing sanctions to be put in place in the interest of public safety, most schools have been met with unfamiliar territories with continuing classes online and planning end of the year events. The seniors have already had the last months of their high school careers taken from them, which is understandable and necessary given current circumstances and precautions. What is not acceptable, however, is haste. Transylvania County public schools has chosen to host a 'drive-in movie' concept for graduation, with a prerecorded video and a picture slide show being shown on a projected screen, with only immediate family being allowed to view with the graduates. Although it has the right intentions, a 'drive through' graduation does not highlight the thirteen years of hard work and dedication these seniors have put it. This petition proposes that a traditional graduation be hosted later, when it is safe to do so. As of 11:00am on 5/4/2020, 820 people have signed their support to the petition."

Connie Osteen - "I know I can only ask and pray that these hard workings kids can have a nice ending of the 13 years of hard working and sleepless nights of studying. It will not only ends their childlike stage of life but a brand new beginning of adult stage. It's time to practice that there are times in life where we have and need to walk our FAITH out. Let's try not to walk by sight but by OUR FAITH once in a while. Do not let this Virus ruins everything for these children. In God, With God, and through God, everything is possible. The God we all serve, he walked on water, he calmed the storm, he raised people back to life, and he rose from death. What else can he not do?? He will surely can get rid of this pandemic if we ask and seek him. Praying that you give time to decide and honor the feelings of the class of 2020."

Chairman McCoy thanked everyone who spoke and sent in their comments. She stated that public comment normally does not include a response from the board; however, because this is a topic that is so important to so many, she would read a brief statement to the 2020 graduates on behalf of the board:

"We extend our heartfelt thoughts to you and what you are experiencing through the loss of so much of your senior year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, an employee acted without authorization and released a statement on Friday about our 2020 graduation that had not been approved by administration. This information about the graduation ceremonies had also not been shared with the board of education. Administration and staff are continuing to work diligently to provide the best graduation options for you and your families. Your principals and school administration will provide updates regarding graduation. We apologize for any stress this error added to an already stressful situation and will work with staff to ensure this doesn't happen again. Graduations and recognition events are among the highlights of the school year, and we as a board regret that we will not be able to share those events with your class as we would under normal circumstances. Based on what we have heard about your class before and after the March school closure, we believe that you are a strong, courageous and talented class that will overcome the trials of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are proud of each of you and know that we will continue to hear great things about the class of 2020."

3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

GRADUATION 2020

Before schools were closed for the remainder of the year, the 2020 graduation ceremonies for Davidson River School, Brevard High School, and Rosman High School were scheduled to take place during the first week of June. Due to the current restrictions on large public gatherings, those ceremonies as originally planned cannot take place. However, plans are underway to provide a modified graduation event for the class of 2020. Please look for details to be announced soon on our website <http://www.tcsnc.org>.

EMERGENCY MEALS-TO-YOU

Having kids out of school can cause extra stress to families. It takes extra time to shop for groceries and extra money to pay for food because kids aren't getting meals at school. Emergency Meals-To-You is a new program that delivers—for FREE—directly to your door, kid-friendly, no-cook meals every two weeks for every child in the household ages 1-18. The program could run through September, and all children are eligible without regard to enrollment status. Emergency Meals-To-You is a partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Baylor University, the Carolina Hunger Initiative at UNC, and our school system. Applications closed today at 5:00 p.m. and Transylvania County Schools was fortunate to be one of 14 districts in North Carolina admitted into this program.

NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The week of May 4-8, 2020 is National Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers change the lives of millions of children every day, and with the abrupt end to the physical school year, our teachers have done even more to continue daily education with virtual classrooms and at home learning. All to ensure that every student has the tools they need to reach their full potential. In these challenging times, let's be sure to show teachers our thanks and appreciation.

EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR 2020-2021

We were not able to hold the "Teacher of the Year" awards reception this year, but we certainly want to recognize and congratulate all of the outstanding educators who were selected as the "best of the best" by their colleagues for 2020-2021:

Student Services Person of the Year: Hallie Moore (BHS)

Media/Technology Person of the Year: Cameron Weaver (PFES)

Principal of the Year: Tonya Treadway (PFES)

Rookie of the Year: Courtney Gibson (BES)

Teacher Assistants of the Year: Faith Stamey (BES), Carri Harris (BHS), Erika McCall (BMS), Aubrey Moore (PFES), Patricia Roman (RES), Sandy O'Rourke (RHS), and Holly Watkins (TCH)

Teachers of the Year: Maggie McLauchlin (BES), Erica Thompson (BHS), Glenda Bingle (BMS), Jessica Williams (DRS), Emily Fields (PFES), Jessica Ammons (RES), Sara Cathey (RHS), Laura Smith (RMS), and Margaret Joseph (TCH)

Efforts are underway to select our District TOY and TAOY winners for 2020-2021. Stay tuned for more information.

NATIONAL SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' DAY

National School Principals' Day is observed nationally on May 1st each year, and let's take a moment to thank these dedicated professionals for their leadership and dedication to providing the best education possible for their students. Principals allocate financial

resources, set and implement academic goals, work with state and district education officials, communicate with parents, deal with discipline issues, and work long weeks. They motivate others and help lead young people to a prosperous future. Please join us in saying “thank you” to all the hardworking principals in our schools.

NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY

May 6, 2020 is National School Nurse Day. School nurses play an integral role in the health of students and the overall health of the schools in which they work. Nationwide, the number of students with physical and mental health conditions and students who are affected by societal issues such as living in poverty increases every year. In addition to one-on-one services to students, school nurses connect providers, parents, and communities to bolster student attendance, wellness, and learning. Please join us in thanking our wonderful school nurses for all they do every day.

SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY

Friday, May 1st was School Lunch Hero Day, a national celebration of the hard-working individuals who prepare healthy meals for our students every day. Especially now when schools are shut down, the role of our cafeteria workers is more important than ever before. The meals they prepare and deliver each week are vitally important to children in our community who do not have a secure food source. We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the entire school nutrition team for the many ways they support our county’s children and families during these challenging times.

BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT FROM HAYWOOD EMC

Each year, the North Carolina Electric Cooperatives organization awards more than 600 Bright Ideas grants to teachers for projects that improve classroom instruction and utilize innovative teaching methods. Our sponsoring cooperative, Haywood Electric, has invited Transylvania County teachers to apply for the grants again this year. To learn more about the Bright Ideas Grant Program, visit www.ncbrightideas.com. The early bird deadline for applications is August 15 and the final deadline is September 15.

TCSEF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

Formerly the *Washington DC Close Up Scholarship*, the Transylvania County Schools Educational Foundation (TCSEF) Experiential Learning Scholarship is open for applications. This scholarship has been expanded to include any learning opportunity that allows a rising high school student in Transylvania County Schools to explore a career or field of study they are interested in (e.g., NC State College of Design - Design Camp, PARI Space Camp, Camp MasterChef, Savannah College of Art and Design Summer Seminar, Economics for Leaders at Wake Forest University, etc.). The possibilities are endless! Students that will be in grades 9-12 for the 2020-2021 school year are eligible. Apply or learn more online.

UNC-TV EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

UNC-TV is providing students in grades 4-12 with a robust schedule of educational programs while schools are shut down. This vetted, curriculum-informed programming is available Monday through Friday, from 8am to 1pm for grades 4-8, and from 1pm to 6pm for grades 9-12 (actual times may vary, please check the weekly schedule at unctv.org/ahl). This is an evolving effort on the part of UNC-TV and NCDPI to serve the needs of North Carolina’s children. The educational programming block is available over the air on the North Carolina Channel and may be streamed live at unctv.org/athomelearning.

BREVARD IN U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

It's official! Brevard High School is a 2020 Best High School, based on rankings that *U.S. News and World Report* published on April 21, by earning a national ranking in the top 40%. U.S. News received AP and IB data directly from the College Board and International Baccalaureate, respectively, for use in the rankings. The state assessment data and graduation rates are from each state, and other data comes from the U.S. Department of Education Common Core of Data. Congratulations to the students, teachers, families, and administrators of Brevard High School.

Dr. McDaris thanked Officer Stroup and Officer Snipes for securing the meeting.

4. Former Students in the Military

The board reviewed the list of former students from Brevard High School, Rosman High School, and Davidson River School who are currently serving or have previously served in the U.S. Military. There were no new names on the list.

5. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 6, 2020 meeting and the personnel report for May 4, 2020 (attached).

6. Resolution of Appreciation to All Staff

Chairman McCoy read a resolution expressing thanks and appreciation to all staff members of Transylvania County Schools for their dedication and devotion to their work. ON A MOTION BY MRS. WELLBORN, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the resolution was unanimously approved (see attached).

7. Policy

Dr. Brian Weaver reported that the North Carolina School Boards Association has issued six policy updates related to the COVID-19 response. Five are revisions to current policies and one is a brand new policy. The policies were presented as first-read information; however, in light of the need to get the new guidelines on the books, he recommended that the board approve the policies at this meeting. Mr. Griffin asked if any of the new information conflicts with the board's current procedures. Dr. Weaver confirmed that none of the revisions present conflicts and stated that the new policy on telework was needed anyway. Mrs. Wellborn commented that the new changes are clearly necessary.

Policy 2420, Adoption of Policies, states that policies introduced and recommended to the board will not be adopted until a subsequent meeting. It also states that temporary approval may be granted by the board in lieu of formal policy to meet emergency conditions. Policy 2450, Suspension of Board Policies, allows the temporary suspension of any section or sections of board policies by a majority vote of board members present at a meeting. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, pursuant to policy 2450, the board voted unanimously to temporarily suspend the normal policy adoption process as described in policy 2420 and approve the six policies listed below as presented.

Spring 2020 COVID-19 Updates	
2302	Remote Participation in Board Meetings
4230	Communicable Diseases - Students
5050	Emergency Closings
7503 (NEW)	Teleworking

7560	Permitted Salary Deductions for Absences and Discipline of Certain Exempt Employees
7620	Payroll Deductions

8. Federal Programs

Curriculum Director Missy Ellenberger reported that Transylvania County Schools is giving public notice of the applications listed below for federal grants that have been or will be submitted within the next 30 days. Board members asked if any changes to the grants' funding levels are anticipated. Mrs. Ellenberger reported that she expects no changes at this time.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION - Grade Expansion Grant

IDEA Preschool

IDEA VI-B - Handicapped

TITLE IA - Basic Programs, Student Support, and Academic Enrichment

TITLE IIA - Supportive Effective Instruction

TITLE III - Language Acquisition

TITLE IV-A - Student Support

MCKINNEY-VENTO GRANT

9. FY20 Budget Amendment

Norris Barger presented a budget amendment to the state budget fund for FY20. He reported that the amendment mostly reflects allotments related to the COVID-19 response. He anticipates bringing a future amendment for the school bus drivers who have been preparing and transporting meals to students during the shutdown. Mr. Barger also expects to receive additional COVID-19 funding from the state legislature in the weeks to come. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the FY20 budget amendment for the State Public School Fund was unanimously approved (see attached).

10. Bond Update

Mr. Barger gave an update on school bond construction projects. He reported good progress to date and stated that he expects to receive the first GMP (guaranteed maximum price) from Vannoy Construction soon. He noted that some meetings with school staff have had to be postponed due to the shutdown; however, they are looking for ways to have those meetings as soon as possible. Mr. Kiviniemi asked Mr. Barger to share with the board any changes that may result from those sessions. Mr. Barger reported that he is also working on ways to get input and updates out to the public.

11. Capital Projects Status Report

Norris Barger presented a status report on capital projects as of March 31, 2020. He reported that the restroom renovation at the Education Center is on pause due to lack of bidders. Entry doors are being done now that schools are closed. Two air handlers are being replaced at BMS. Paving of the emergency drive at RES is moving forward for the summer and should not disrupt classes this fall. Vannoy and Clark Nexsen have reported that the shutdown has so far created only a slight slowdown in the supply chain. Dr. McDaris thanked everyone involved in the purchase and installation of the new IT backup generator at the Education Center. Without it, countless data would have been lost during the last storm/power outage. Overall, capital projects are on track budget-wise (barring any unforeseen catastrophic occurrence).

12. FY21 Budget

Mr. Barger presented the latest draft documents for the FY21 budget request. He reported no changes since the last meeting. Chairman McCoy noted that the board

would typically hold a work session to discuss budget in greater detail, but due to the coronavirus limitations, members have been directed instead to communicate their questions to the superintendent individually.

Chairman McCoy asked Dr. McDaris to elaborate on the athletic event security item for Fund 2. Dr. McDaris reported that in the past school resource officers earned comp time for overtime hours worked covering school athletic events. We no longer have that option, so the board is requesting an increase of \$23,700 to pay for SRO overtime hours. Mr. Barger stated that he would prefer to pay for this cost at the system level rather than make the schools pay from their budgets. Mr. Griffin pointed out that middle schools do not make the same gate receipts as high schools yet have almost the same number of games and matches. Mr. Kiviniemi observed that over \$400,000 in requested Fund 2 increases (potential pay increase, retirement rate increase, health insurance increase, and payment to charter schools) are state mandated and beyond local control.

Mr. Barger reported no changes to the list of capital needs for FY21-FY24 since the last meeting. Mr. Kiviniemi questioned a recurring mower cost; Mr. Barger indicated that was an error and would be corrected. Mr. Barger also presented a summary of remaining needs from the master facilities plan. He reported that the master plan of identified needs was reduced by the board in 2017 from the original \$118 million to \$93,115,000. Deducting the \$68 million bond, approximately \$444,230 for FY18-FY20 projects, and the \$645,000 appropriated for future projects brings the total to \$24,026,000.

Chairman McCoy reported that the superintendent has provided his budget message to the board by May 1 as required. The document is being reviewed and revised before its final submission to the county by May 15. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED MR. KIVINIEMI, the board unanimously approved the budget request for fiscal year 2020-2021 by roll call vote.

13. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris gave the following updates:

- A productive meeting was held today with the county health director to review options for graduation. High school principals will present information to seniors on Tuesday, May 5.
- Governor Cooper is expected to hold a press conference this week with an update on North Carolina's schools and the COVID-19 response. Health experts are predicting a second coronavirus wave in the fall.
- State lawmakers recently rolled out a compromise \$2.7 billion COVID-19 relief package that addresses K-12 schools and various pandemic recovery needs across the state.
- As of 9am on May 4, Transylvania County had 577 applications from 274 households (representing 577 children) for the Emergency Meals-To-You grant. This free home delivery service will greatly help families who are not able to easily access meal drop-off sites.
- Dozens of virtual meetings are taking place with other superintendents and DPI leaders each week to discuss plans for the remainder of this school year and the next year. We greatly appreciate the efforts of our community partners, the Sheriff's

department, the Transylvania County Health Department, and other county agencies during this time.

14. Important Dates

The board will return to its once-a-month meeting schedule beginning in July. Regular meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month unless otherwise noted.

May 18	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 25	Memorial Day holiday
June 1	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
June 4	Last pupil day
June 5	Teacher workday
TBA	DRS Graduation
TBA	RHS Graduation
TBA	BHS Graduation
June 8-10	Teacher workdays
June 15	4-day summer schedule begins
June 15	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC

15. Timeline for Superintendent's Annual Evaluation

Dr. McDaris gave a reminder that policy 7805, Superintendent Evaluation, requires the board to perform an evaluation of the superintendent each year. The following timeline was recommended for the 2019-2020 evaluation:

June 15.....	Superintendent provides self-assessment to the board.
Before July 20	Board chair and vice chair meet with superintendent to discuss self-assessment.
Before July 20	Board members complete and return individual evaluations to chair or vice chair.
July 20	Board members meet in closed session to prepare consensus evaluation.
August 17	Board meets with superintendent in closed session to discuss the consensus evaluation and agree upon performance goals and recommendations for the next school year.

16. Public Comment

None

17. Other Items

Mr. Kiviniemi asked when the board would be reading the list of former students in the military—at the May 18 meeting or the June 1 meeting. Dr. McDaris confirmed that the list would be read on May 18.

18. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board voted to go into closed session at 8:37 p.m. to consult with the board attorney concerning a legal matter, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1) and 143-318.11(a)(3). Prior to the closed session, the board took a brief recess from 8:37 to 8:45 p.m. Present in the closed session were board members Tawny McCoy, *Ron Kiviniemi, *Courtney Domokur, *Marty Griffin, and *Alice Wellborn; superintendent Jeff McDaris; and board attorney *Dean Shatley (* indicates remote attendance). The board voted unanimously to approve action regarding a potential litigation. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board reconvened in open session at 9:15 p.m.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
May 4, 2020

- I. ACCEPT THE REPORT OF RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS ACCEPTED/INITIATED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT FROM/FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Licensed Personnel

Vera Cubero, Instructional Technology Facilitator/Digital Learning Specialist, BHS, effective May 31, 2020

Marissa Fedorczyk, Teacher, PFES, effective June 10, 2020

Paul Fedorczyk, Teacher, BMS, effective June 10, 2020

Megan Hoots, Teacher, PFES, effective April 10, 2020

Carol Martin, Teacher, BES, effective June 10, 2020

Stephen Oswalt, Teacher, RMS & RHS, effective June 10, 2020

Jonathan Owen, Teacher, BHS, effective June 10, 2020

Classified Personnel

Hunter Holland, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective June 8, 2020

- II. APPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Licensed Personnel

Jennifer McCall, Teacher & Coach, RHS, effective August 12, 2020

Sarah Monteith, Teacher, BMS, effective August 12, 2020

Ashlee O'Dwyer, Teacher, RMS, effective August 12, 2020

Ann Rich, Instructional Coach, TCH, effective August 3, 2020

Classified Personnel

None

- III. ACCEPT THE REPORT OF TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT MADE BY THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Licensed Personnel

Patrick Chapman, from Assistant Principal, RMS & RHS, to Principal, TCHES, effective July 1, 2020

Carrie Norris, from Principal, BES, to Director, MEC, effective July 1, 2020

Audrey Reneau, from Principal, TCH, to Director, MEC, effective July 1, 2020

Classified Personnel

None

- IV. APPROVE THE LEAVES OF ABSENCE RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Licensed Personnel

Katherine Reinhart, Teacher, BHS, Family Leave (BOE Policy 7510), effective March 30, 2020 through June 10, 2020

Classified Personnel

None

- V. APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEES:

Substitute Teachers

None

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None

**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

WHEREAS, the teachers, instructional support staff, district operational support staff, and administrators help our county prepare our nation's future citizens and leaders through guidance and education; and

WHEREAS, the combined staff of the Transylvania County Schools encounters students of widely differing backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, our system works daily to nurture, feed, love and support, protect, and educate our children; and

WHEREAS, Transylvania County Schools is the center of our great community of Transylvania County; and

WHEREAS, our country's future depends upon providing quality education to all students; and

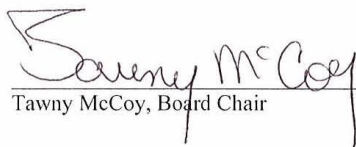
WHEREAS, Transylvania County Schools educational family spends countless hours preparing educational activities, lessons, evaluating progress, counseling and coaching, and protecting and performing community service for students and the community; and

WHEREAS, The Transylvania County Board of Education recognizes and supports our educational family of teachers, instructional support staff, district operational support staff, and administrators in educating the children of this community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education proclaims its deep appreciation and thanks to the entire Transylvania County Schools Educational Family; and.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education strongly encourages all members of our community to join in personally expressing appreciation to all staff members of the Transylvania County Schools for their dedication and devotion to their work.

ADOPTED this the 4th day of May 2020.


Tawny McCoy, Board Chair


Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent

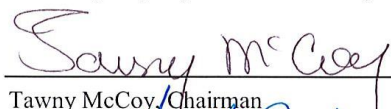
Budget Amendment - State Public School Fund**Amendment no. 2**


Function Code	Description	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
	REVENUES			
	Revenues	\$22,743,078	\$155,874	\$22,898,952
	EXPENDITURES			
5100	Regular Instructional	13,895,898	42,471	13,938,369
5200	Special Instructional	2,724,632	0	2,724,632
5300	Alternative Programs	521,623	0	521,623
5400	School Leadership	1,452,280	(6,000)	1,446,280
5800	School-Based Support	1,421,032	0	1,421,032
6100	Support And Development	19,000	0	19,000
6200	Special Population Support And Dev	32,000	0	32,000
6300	Alternative S & D	0	0	0
6400	Technology Support	136,319	0	136,319
6500	Operational Support	2,027,578	14,250	2,041,828
6600	Financial And Human Resources	174,025	0	174,025
6900	Policy And Leadership	236,389	0	236,389
7100	Regular Community Service	0	0	0
7200	Ancillary Services	102,302	105,153	207,455
8100	Pay To Oth Govt & Tfirs Of	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET		\$22,743,078	\$155,874	\$22,898,952

EXPLANATION:

See attached

Passed by majority vote of the Transylvania County Board of Education this 4th day of May, 2020


 Tawny McCoy, Chairman


 Jeff McDaris, Secretary

PRC	Description	Amount	Reason
001	Classroom Teachers		
003	Non-Instructional Support Per.	1,250	Periodic allotment
007	Instructional Support		
013	CTE-Months Of Emploment		
014	CTE-Program Support		
015	School Technology Fund	734	Periodic allotment
016	Summer Reading Camp		
024	Disadvantaged Student Supp		
027	Teacher Assistants		
029	Behavioral Support		
032	Exceptional Children		
034	Academic/Intellectually Gifted		
045	Compensation Bonus		
046	Test Result Bonus		
048	Test Result Bonus		
056	Transportation of Pupils		
061	Classroom Materials		
063	Developmental Daycare		
064	CTE Grade Expansion		
069	At-Risk Student Services		
130	Textbook Credit Balance		
131	Textbooks And Digital Resources	48,737	Transfer from textbooks
154	COVID-19 Supplemental Funds	105,153	New allotment
		155,874	